

neighbor and an outstanding representative of the United States Air Force in the Northwest Florida community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize SrA Alexander W. Blench. His dedication to duty, his technical competence, and his contributions to the local community all bear testament to his personal embodiment of the Air Force's core values—"Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do." My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating SrA Blench, and we wish him all the best for continued success.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOLLIDAYSBURG AREA YMCA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to recognize the Hollidaysburg Area YMCA upon the 100th anniversary of their continued service to our community. I, along with close to 6,000 of my constituents, am proud to call Hollidaysburg home and am pleased to have the opportunity to call attention to such a respected mainstay in our community.

The Hollidaysburg Area YMCA, founded in 1912, currently boasts roughly 4,000 members. These members are provided training, education, the use of the grounds and facility, and access to multiple wellness events throughout the course of the year. In 2011, they proudly bore the title of the largest wellness program available in Blair County, teaching and advocating youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. This feat is made all the more impressive by the fact that they serve as a completely non-profit community center with no subsidy from tax revenues. Beside their own regular members, an estimated 25,000 individuals come through their doors each month to receive the same high quality care and instruction that YMCAs all across the United States provide on a daily basis.

In addition to general safety and instruction, the Hollidaysburg Area YMCA also operates one of the largest childcare centers in the area, providing a resource for American families in surrounding areas, encouraging and supporting the hard work and diligence that makes America great. This, combined with their welcoming community center, their extensive aquatic programs, and the financial assistance provided to nearly 600 individuals annually, has endeared this establishment to its people and community.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the YMCA of the Hollidaysburg Area for 100 years of history, growth and success. This organization continually lives out their mission by putting "Christian-Judeo principles into practice through programs and services that build healthy spirits, minds, and bodies for all." Hollidaysburg is honored to boast such a vital and interactive part of our community and I invite the American people to help celebrate this anniversary by exploring the opportunities and advantages that the YMCAs of America provide their communities.

HONORING ERIKA GARZA

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Erika Garza is a senior at Pasadena Memorial High School in Harris County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

The role of the government is to represent, help, and speak out for its people. Specifically, when dealing with the government of the United States, it is basically supposed to be ruled by the people, for the people. The public, although not everybody does it, participates in the government by voting. We vote representatives into office, with the thought that they have the intention to make a difference in our country, dealing with specific issues that we believe need to be changed. The government has many different levels to it, yet it is composed of people who come from similar backgrounds and wanted to be the voice for their fellow people. This is not an easy task, as it takes a lot of hard work and time to be elected into office. Once a person is elected into office, their job becomes even more difficult. They then have to try and do what is best for the people but also have to deal with other representatives as well who have the complete opposite opinions. Not all the elected think alike, nor do they have the same goals, which makes making laws or setting standards difficult. Yet, their main focus is to represent the people who have chosen them to do what others in the past have failed to do. That is basically the role of the government and how people participate in it daily.

HONORING THE MOUNT HERALD MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a pillar of the community, the Mount Herald Missionary Baptist Church. Mt. Herald M. B. Church served as a catalyst during the civil rights movement in Sharkey County, Mississippi.

The Church was organized in 1908, under the leadership of the late Rev. B. S. Scott. Over the years physical structure was built under the leadership of Rev. B. C. Cook and the new foundation was laid by Rev. G. P. Phillips in 1924.

During the Civil Rights era, the Mt. Herald M. B. Church was used as one of the many

safe houses for the brave men and women who stood up for the rights of African Americans in the segregated South, including the Mississippi Delta. These brave warriors gave their lives for the rights that we now have as African Americans.

Before the states were ordered to end all segregated school systems the Mount Herald M. B. Church was used as the first high school for African American students in the Rolling Fork, Mississippi community.

On April 4, 2003, the Mt. Herald M. B. Church family purchased the property located at 140 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street, in Rolling Fork, Mississippi so they could accommodate the growth of the church family and continue their mission for the good of all mankind. The Mount Herald Church is truly a church full with members who are truly making a difference in the community. The Mount Herald Missionary Baptist Church is currently under the leadership of Pastor Gregory D. Young.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that our colleagues join me on this 9th anniversary of acquisition of the Mt. Herald Missionary Baptist Church to honor its exemplary service and dedication to the state of Mississippi.

MARKING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SINKING OF THE TITANIC WITH THE STORY OF THE KELLY FAMILY OF NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, April 14th will mark the 100th Anniversary of the Titanic tragedy and for one family, the Kellys of New Haven, Connecticut, it will mark the anniversary of the loss of a very special member of their family, James Kelly. The Titanic Kellys, as they have been known since the days of this tragedy, will gather for a reunion and a celebration of the strength and resiliency of this wonderful family.

In the early part of the 20th century, life in Leixlip, Ireland was difficult to say the least and James Kelly determined that it was time for his family to seek a new life in America. In order to obtain the necessary money to move the family, the eldest daughter, Margaret left her home and family and immigrated to New Haven, Connecticut where she would work until she had earned enough for her father to join her. The plan was for Margaret and James to then work to bring the rest of the family to New Haven.

Margaret worked at the garment company Strause-Adler and soon had enough wages saved to send to her father. It is not fully known exactly how James Kelly obtained passage on the Titanic, but what is known is that he boarded at Queenstown, Ireland and his ticket number was 330911. This third class passage ticket was purchased for approximately \$40.00 and being third class, James was segregated from the other passengers and, while his movement was limited, some of the accommodations were actually better than what he saw at his two room house in Leixlip. It is not hard to imagine the hope that was in his heart—the dreams of a better life for his family. Unfortunately, fate had different plans.